

I oppose SB184 and HB5262 which seek to redefine the definitions for eligibility for an absentee ballot in Connecticut, specifically when it comes to the term 'sickness.'

Our state constitution is very clear that qualified voters of the state who are unable to appear at the polling place on the day of election will be afforded the ability to vote by mail because of absence from the city or town of which they are inhabitants or because of "sickness", or physical disability or because the tenets of their religion forbid secular activity.

This has always been understood to mean one's personal 'sickness' just like all the other excuses listed are because one is affected personally. Obviously, one wouldn't need to vote by absentee because of a neighbor's or relatives absence from work etc.

In 2020, the Governor and the Secretary of the State spent millions of taxpayer dollars to mail ballot applications to every person on Connecticut's voter rolls which are well known to contain tens of thousands of ineligible voters including those who have died, moved away, or are registered in different locations. In fact, hundreds of thousands of these ballot applications were returned in the mail. Independent investigators have uncovered duplicate voters, deceased voters, and significant other problems with this type of election.

The two bills seem to redefine 'sickness' for the purpose of creating no-excuse absentee voting circumventing the constitution and enabling another unsolicited, expensive mass mailing election.

Other states that have significant mail-in or absentee voting systems have spent decades improving security and making sure the results can be trusted. We have no such security protection in Connecticut.

Again, I am opposed to SB184 and HB5262.

Regards,  
Kristen Ritchie